

**BENT'S OLD FORT (NPS)**

West of Las Animas on Colorado Highway 194

La Junta vicinity

Strategically located for trade with Southern Plains Indians, and the principal stop on the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail, this adobe post established by William and Charles Bent and Ceran Saint Vrain was the hub of a vast trading network ca. 1833-1849. In addition, during the Mexican War (1846-1848) Bent's Fort played a prominent role as a supply center for the U.S. Army. Now reconstructed on its original foundations, Bent's Old Fort is a National Historic Site.